

# THE U. F. A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF  
THE UNITED FARMERS of ALBERTA

Vol. III.

CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 11, 1924

No. 8

## Membership for First Two Months of 1924 Shows Increase of 66 Per Cent.

Greatest Expansion Since Convention—Memberships Received in February 123 Per Cent. Greater Than in Corresponding Month Last Year—U. F. A. More Firmly Established Than at Any Previous Time in History of Association—Reasons for Revival

The inevitable reaction which followed in the wake of the intense political activity in 1921—a reaction intensified by severe economic depression in every branch of the industry of agriculture—has now been passed through.

### FALL PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY

Signs of the coming revival were first witnessed at the close of the harvest season of 1923. At that time, however, there still seemed to be some grounds for doubt. While conditions in the organization were fairly healthy, there prevailed throughout the Province a degree of uncertainty, which seemed to be based in part upon the possibilities of the Annual Convention, then approaching. It had been predicted that the Convention would witness a complete breakdown of the organization, and its enemies, confident of its early capitulation, seized upon the occasion as an opportunity to weaken the Association by continuous sniping and raids, finally launching a general attack. The daily press, and certain of the weekly newspapers, found occasion to emphasize the fact that no farmers' organization had hitherto survived the decision to enter the field of active politics, and drew the apparently logical conclusion that according to the law of probabilities, the United Farmers of Alberta were also likely to fail.

### WHY PREDICTION NOT FULFILLED

These predictions have not been fulfilled because the prophets had overlooked one important consideration. The Alberta farmers, when they were preparing to take political action, were fully aware of past failures. After a close study of unsuccessful experiments carried on by farmers elsewhere, they had decided, without reservation, to abandon the idea of junction with any existing political party, or of following an equally dangerous course by the creation of a new one. They had decided to enter the arena of political action as an organized group. From this decision, during the period of several years which have since passed, they never wavered. And because they have not wavered, they will not share the fate of their predecessors. The revival now apparent is a clear

### MEMBERSHIP FIGURES FOR TWO MONTHS

An Increase of 66 per cent. as compared with 1923, and of 49 per cent. as compared with 1922, is shown by the returns of membership received at Central Office during the first two months of the present year. The greatest expansion has taken place since the Annual Convention. During the month which closed on February 29th, there was an increase, as compared with February, 1923, of no less than 123 per cent., and, as compared with February, 1922, of 77 per cent.

The figures are as follows:

#### TWO MONTHS COMBINED

Memberships paid in January and February, 1924	4530
Memberships paid in January and February, 1923	2735
Memberships paid in January and February, 1922	3031
Increase as compared with 1923	1793
Increase as compared with 1922	1499

#### FEBRUARY ONLY

Memberships paid in February, 1924	2944
Memberships paid in February, 1923	1319
Memberships paid in February, 1922	1666
Increase as compared with 1923	1625
Increase as compared with 1922	1278

During the early part of the year 1921 the Provincial drive which brought the membership to a record figure was in progress, and it has been found impossible to obtain specific figures for the two months of January and February. It is probable, however, that during these months in 1921 the totals were greater than they have been in 1924. The significant thing about the present drive is that it has been initiated and carried on almost entirely by the Locals themselves, without any general Provincial organization. A great awakening has begun spontaneously, among the farm people themselves. The figures above include the men's organization, the U. F. W. A. and the Junior Branch.

Membership figures for U. F. W. A. and Junior Branch will be found elsewhere in this issue.

vindication of the form of organization which they have adopted, as against those of farmers' associations which could conceive of no alternative to the old political parties than the creation of a new one on the old plan.

### SHARP UPWARD TURN SINCE CONVENTION

The revival which is now general began shortly after harvest, and gained in momentum during the winter months. It was not, however, until after the Annual Convention that the greatest expansion took place. The Convention demonstrated the determination of the farmers to establish a united front, their desire for the extended application of the principles of co-operative marketing, and it gave a greater impetus to the development of this principle as applied to all the products of the farm, upon sound, practical lines than it had ever received in the past. The Convention revealed the belief of the farmers in the political principles which they had adopted, and their loyalty

and determination to stand firmly by them. As indicated by the membership records published on this page, the curve of membership took a sharp turn upward as soon as the influence of the gathering at Edmonton became general throughout the Province. January had witnessed an expansion of about 12 per cent., as compared with January of 1923. In the month of February there was an increase of 123 per cent., as compared with February of last year.

The present revival is a normal, healthy development. It differs from the rapid expansion prior to 1921 in this: that it does not coincide with any period of political excitement. It is not the result, even in part, of any wave of popular emotion, but the outcome of reasoned decision, the careful study of the lessons to be learnt from past mistakes, and the application of the results of experience to the hard, practical, but vitally important economic, social and political problems, with which the farm people must be called upon to deal.

Today the people alike of the rural districts and of the towns and cities have greater confidence in the U. F. A. than they have ever had in the past. Although many Local drives are only just beginning, it is already evident that the organization has stood the test, and come through.



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## EDITORIAL

There are subjects which the Liberal party, if they were wise, would not venture to touch with a 25 foot tamarac telephone pole.

\* \* \*

The party system in Alberta, as exemplified in the Legislative Assembly during the present session, is utterly and hopelessly bankrupt. The sooner the remnant of the system is discarded, the more quickly business methods are substituted for party methods, the better it will be for the public. If the people of this Province could realize the wastefulness, the frittering away of time and energy upon artificial and insincere issues, which is involved in its continuance, no single party candidate would again be returned to the Assembly.

Responsibility for the continuance of party methods rests almost exclusively with the Liberal party in the Legislature, and perhaps, in spite of the fact that the party contains some members who are business men first, and politicians by accident, these methods will continue to be practiced during the lifetime of the present Legislature.

It is true that every attack which has been launched in the spirit of partyism has recoiled upon the party and weakened their position, for their leader has yet to learn that there are some chapters in the history of past administration of public business which the public are not likely soon to forget. But the leader of the party, and some of his lieutenants, (one or two of them new members of the Assembly) are too completely steeped in the traditions which less experienced politicians regard as outworn, to be capable of adjusting themselves to new conditions. They have found themselves compelled to assume a somewhat humiliating defensive after every attack which they have launched during the present session. But we do not expect any change in this quarter.

The policy pursued by the Liberal party in the debate on the address; their policy in the discussion on mortgage legislation; and the filibuster on the Highways Bill have all reacted to their disadvantage. From the standpoint of their own immediate political advantage, the Government could not have hoped for a more useful opposition. But this would be a short-sighted view. The business before the Legislature is of vital importance to the people of the Province, and nothing is gained in the long run by the opposition's concentration on factitious and dishonest issues.

The Labor members of the Assembly, though they sometimes differ with the Government, concern themselves solely with real issues and real problems. Dr. Stewart, though on one occasion he paid tribute to the traditional high gods of the Conservative party, whose policies have no more to do with the problems before the people of Alberta, or with his own action upon public measures, than they have with the planet Mars, has hitherto proved in practice a non-partizan. He was elected as an "Independent" Conservative, and in spite of lip-service to partyism, he has not considered public business from a party standpoint. His personality and his

independence, not his "Conservatism", made his election possible in 1921. There are also two members of the Assembly who were elected as Independents, without qualification, and who are thereby definitely committed against the use of their position in the Legislature to promote the ends of partyism. The hope of the future will lie, in large measure, in the strengthening of the genuinely independent groups, including Labor. The Liberal party almost entirely (and not every member of the party in equal measure) are responsible for the continuance of outworn and discredited methods.

The Legislative Assembly will not become a fully efficient body until partyism has been completely eliminated, until the cities have followed the example of the great majority of rural constituencies, by electing members who will be expected to deal with every item of legislation, not as a pawn in a game, but on its merits.

\* \* \*

It is significant that at a time when Cabinet ministers and senators of national reputation, in both of the national political parties, are being implicated in the Teapot Dome and other scandals, none of the "radical" senators has been involved. In fact it is by Senator Walsh, a "radical", that the most important evidence has been brought out. It is the respectable politicians whose reputations are suffering.

\* \* \*

The Canadian Forum, an ably edited monthly periodical published in Toronto, commenting on the failure of the Home Bank, expresses the opinion that the failure is stimulating the business of the savings bank instituted some two years ago by the U. F. O.-Labor Government in Ontario, and points out that this bank, which is strongly supported by the savings of city labor, is being used to finance long and short term rural credits. "Students of finance", says the Forum, "will join with Toronto carpenters in interested observation of the future which awaits the child of Mr. Manning Doherty's brain at the hands of Mr. Ferguson (the Premier of the new Conservative Government). If allowed free course along with the post office savings bank it should show a large increase in deposits until banks find it impossible to declare dividends and to state their affairs are most satisfactory when they are really ready to collapse."

\* \* \*

A correspondent at Cereal asks why we believe that the first clause in the Declaration of Principles of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, calling for "hearty support of the League of Nations as an effective agency to promote peace and security", should be eliminated.

We cannot discuss the matter in detail in this issue, but may point out that for a body of Canadian citizens to endorse this international body as "an effective agency to promote peace", when many of the most disinterested and progressive public men of Europe have no faith in its effectiveness, would be very unwise.

The League is heavily in debt to the international bankers, and there appear to be good reasons for believing that international finance is in a position in a measure to dictate terms to the League in matters of economic policy. The opinion of H. G. Wells, among others, is not to be despised. "The League at Geneva", he says, "is the instinctive effort of the old European order to stifle this creative idea (the idea of a Confederation of Mankind) by encrusting it in a tradition of futility and diplomatic methods. The sooner the League is scrapped and broken up the better, I think, for mankind."

The farmers of Canada desire the establishment of a genuine league of free peoples. They have not as yet received convincing evidence that the present League at Geneva is the league which they desire. In the absence of this evidence such an unqualified endorsement as the Declaration of Principles of the Canadian Council of Agriculture proposes, would be premature.



# Highways Bill Passes Committee After Opposition "Filibuster"---Liquor Bill Nears Final Form---Budget This Week

Assembly Defeats Motion to Eliminate Local Option

Staff Correspondence

## Liberals Attack Highways Bill in Committee Stage

C. R. Mitchell Objects to Searching Public Accounts for Information

### MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 3—Discussion of the Highways Bill in committee of the whole, in which strong exception to the Government's plan for financing the project was entered by a number of members of the opposition, and a difference of opinion between R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, and C. R. Mitchell, member for Bow Valley, as to whether returns asked for by Mr. Mitchell had been given in an adequate way, formed the main features of a sitting in which little progress was made in the advancement of legislation. The objections raised by Mr. Mitchell led to rather breezy passages between himself and the Provincial Treasurer, and the Speaker, who was asked to give a ruling, reserved his decision upon Mr. Mitchell's point of privilege until tomorrow.

Mr. Mitchell contended that the Treasurer had deliberately withheld certain returns asked for, the inquirer being informed that the information was contained in a report previously furnished. He felt he had been discourteously treated, and that the assembly would be shocked.

Mr. Reid denied with some emphasis that any returns asked for had been held back with deliberate intent, and he had certainly intended no discourtesy. There had been delay because the staff was at work on the public accounts, and to furnish the information asked for, immediately, would have meant that work on these accounts, which were being prepared for presentation in the Legislature, would have been seriously delayed. Much of the information asked for had already been furnished in other reports, and Mr. Reid did not think it was fair for the member to ask, two or three times during the session, for information which had been already so furnished. Entering into the discussion, J. R. Boyle urged the Speaker to take time in considering his decision, as the question was one of procedure, while George Hoadley, taking a similar view, suggested that the Speaker should take into consideration precedents established in past Legislatures. If inquiry were made into the past, he suggested, this might throw a flood of light upon the question.

### REAL PURPOSE OF RETURNS

The fundamental reason for motions for returns, in Mr. Hoadley's opinion, was the provision of means whereby members, to whom other sources of information upon any particular matter were closed, could obtain the informa-

It is anticipated that the Budget will be introduced during the present week by R. G. Reid, the Provincial Treasurer.

tion in the Assembly. He was of the opinion that if the returns asked for were already available, the Minister would be justified in referring the applicant to the public document where the information was given.

It would be necessary to wade through page after page of these reports, said Mr. Mitchell, to obtain the information which he wanted, and he insisted that the Government should furnish him with the tabulated details he asked for. Mr. Mitchell pounded his desk, and again protested that he had been discourteously treated.

In discussion of the Highways Bills in committee, Clause 6, which deals with the earmarking of one-half the revenue from automobile licenses to a sinking fund which is to retire the borrowings of \$3,500,000, was the main bone of contention. In answer to the opposition, Alex. Ross, the Minister in charge of the bill, gave an explanation of the measure, covering the ground which had been covered on the second reading. He explained that under the Federal Aid scheme, the Province expected to earn \$1,477,000, representing 40 per cent. of the cost of the program. It was proposed, said the Minister, to spend \$602,000 this year in improving some 425 miles of highways throughout the Province.

J. C. Bowen, of Edmonton, a Liberal member, strongly opposed the borrowing of money for the highways project, insisting that the money received from motor licenses should be allocated for this purpose.

### JASPER PARK HIGHWAY

Members of the Assembly whose constituencies would be affected by the construction of the Jasper Park highway, urged that provision for this undertaking be made under the Government scheme. Mr. Ross stated that this highway was provided for under the five-year scheme, as far as mile 75 but not beyond, though in addition work would be done in the improvement of the road beyond that point. W. M. Washburn, U.F.A. (Stony Plain), J. R. Boyle, A. R. McLennan, J. H. Heffernan and J. C. Bowen of Edmonton, all Liberals, took part in the discussing of the Jasper Park project, and urged its claims to consideration.

George Mills, Liberal, (Beaver River), contended that market roads in the north were of greater importance than the Jasper Park highway, while George MacLachlan, U.F.A., (Pembina), declared that it would cost no more to build the Athabasca Valley railroad than the Jasper highway. That line was the lifeblood of the farmers of a large area in the north, and was of far greater importance than the convenience of auto-tour-

ists who might wish to visit Jasper Park.

Alex. Moore, U.F.A. (Cochrane), did not think it would be necessary to borrow money for the road program, if the proceeds of the gasoline tax and motor licenses were allocated to the purpose.

### HIGHWAYS TO BE IMPROVED

Details of the road program of 425 miles of highways improvement to be carried out during the year 1924, are given below. The program calls for the gravelling of 110 miles. The estimated total cost of the year's program is, as stated elsewhere, \$602,000. Of the sixty miles of road improvement on the highway between Calgary and Edmonton, a little more than eighteen miles will be gravelled.

From Calgary to Airdrie, 15 miles will be improved; from Didsbury to Carstairs 7 miles; from Innisfail 6 miles north and 6 miles south; from Olds east for 3 miles; from Lacombe north for 4 miles; from Ponoka north for 4 miles; from Wetaskiwin north 12 miles; from Edmonton south for 4 miles.

Other items are:

Edmonton to Irma, 11 miles; Kinsella west 2 miles; Tofield west 8 miles; total of 21 miles, of which 2½ miles are to be gravelled.

Edmonton to Lloydminster—Ross Creek, 8 miles; Vermilion east 21 miles; Vegreville, 6 miles; Scottford to Chipman, 23 miles; total of 58 miles.

Edmonton to Athabasca—Mile 30 to 36, 6 miles; St. Albert trail, 1 mile; Lewiston to Athabasca, 9 miles; total 15 miles.

Lacombe to Coronation—Halkirk to Coronation, 6 miles; Nevis to Erskine, 6 miles; total 12 miles.

Grande Prairie—Horse Lake to Indian Reserve, 14 miles; Peace River to Dunvegan, 5 miles; Spirit River to Burnt River, 11 miles; total 30 miles.

Strathmore south, 4 miles on Medicine Hat-Calgary highway; Brooks to Tilley, 18 miles; Alderson east, 6 miles.

Crow's Nest—Mile 100 near Coleman, 5 miles; Pincher Creek, 2 miles; Alkali Flats, 1½ miles; Monarch, 2 miles; through hills at Old Man River at Lethbridge, 3 miles; east of Frank, 2 miles; through the Pass, 6 miles; Brocket to Lundbreck, 18 miles; a total of 40 miles.

Lethbridge to Coutts—New Dayton to Warner, 5 miles; Coutts to Milk River, 5 miles; total 10 miles.

Jasper Highway—Entwhistle to Evansburg, 2 miles; Edmonton to Winterburn, 4 miles; Fallis, 4 miles; total 10 miles.

Calgary to Banff—Calgary to Cochrane, 18 miles on the north trail; Cochrane to Morley, 16 miles; Ghost River to Spicer Creek, 1½ miles; Morley to the boundary of the park, 15 miles; total of 49 miles of which 14 miles is to be gravelled.

Calgary to Glacier Park—Calgary to Midnapore, 5 miles; Hamilton Slough, 2 miles; Cardston to the boundary, 17 miles; 24 miles in all.



Calgary to Alsask — Scottfield to Youngstown, 8 miles; Mile 14 to Mile 27 at Beiseker, 13 miles; Mechene Hills, 1 mile; Hanna to Watts, 1 mile; total 23 miles.

Hanna to Viking—Galahad to Castor, 15 miles; Garden Plains to Castor, 2 miles; south from Killam, 4 miles; total 21 miles.

Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House—Rocky Mountain Ferry, 1 mile; Red Deer west, 11 miles; total 12 miles.

Wetaskiwin to Hayter—Three miles at Hardisty; 1 mile at Hughenden; 5 miles at Metisko; 1 mile at Sedgewick; total 10 miles.

It is proposed to make a reconnaissance of a main highway to Peace River during the current year.

#### MORE SCHOOLS IN OPERATION

The report of the Department of Education for 1923, which was laid on the table of the Assembly today by Perren Baker, the Minister in charge, showed that there had been a reduction of twelve in the staff of the department during the year, thus effecting a saving in the payroll of \$9,480, although during the rush season some slight extra expense had to be incurred for special help.

While this reduction in expenditure took place, there were 134 more schools in operation than in 1922, and the number of days during which schools were operated during the year showed an increase as compared with 1922, the figures being: average number of days in 1922, 179.9; average during 1923, 184.6. The average attendances per pupil showed an increase from 131.32 in 1922 to 133.32 in 1923.

#### LOANS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Loans to school districts during the year totalled \$100,348, as compared with \$215,967 in 1922. The loans outstanding at the end of the year totalled \$545,899, and only \$14,400 was repaid during the year.

In May, June and July of last year the number of teachers was greater than the demand. Advances to normal school students in 1923 totalled \$153,979, while repayments of loans totalled \$127,000. The report states that 600 students are now enrolled at the two normal schools and that these should have completed their courses by the beginning of May. The qualifying standards for normal students have been raised. In proportion to the total school population, there has been a progressive increase in the number of students attending the high schools, from 2.649 per cent. in 1906 to 5.8 per cent. in 1916 and 8.29 in 1923.

During the year 100 correspondence courses were given to families in portions of the Province too remote for school facilities to be provided. The cost of education of deaf and blind children was \$37,993.

## Seeks to Withdraw Question Regarding Telephone Poles

U. F. A. Members Refuse Permission—Minister Quotes Figures for 1922-1923

#### TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 4.—Discussion of the Highways Bill again occu-

pled the greater part of the time of the Legislative Assembly today. Several members of the opposition strongly opposed the financial provisions of the bill, and urged that instead of issuing bonds to cover the cost of the expenditure, the undertaking should be financed by the allocation of the proceeds of motor licenses to this purpose. R. C. Marshall, Liberal member for Calgary, who had given the undertaking his blessing when the bill was under discussion on second reading, stating that his only criticism was that it did not provide for the expenditure of a sufficient sum within the period named, announced that he had come to accept the views expressed by certain of the Liberal leaders, and he described the financial provisions of the bill as "financial piracy." The plan to be followed in the actual construction of the roads, however, was, he believed much better than the plan which had been followed by the old Government. W. M. Davidson, Independent (Calgary), strongly supported the bill.

#### BOWEN MOVES AMENDMENT TO HIGHWAYS BILL

J. C. Bowen, who contended that the Minister of Public Works had ignored the opinions of the Good Roads Board, moved an amendment to the bill, in the following terms:

"That all monies expended under the provisions of this act shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, be allocated to the various highways or portions thereof by the Good Roads Board, who shall determine suitable methods of road construction and maintenance of such highways."

Mr. Bowen read from the minutes of a meeting of the Good Roads Board, held on May 8th, 1923, at which Alex. Ross, Minister of Public Works, had stated that "responsibility for action must remain in his hands as the elected representative of the people; that he welcomed suggestions and advice that the Good Roads Board could offer, but that he held the prerogative of using or making no use of the advice as seemed to himself fit."

At the opening of the sitting the Speaker stated that the objection raised by Mr. Mitchell, with reference to the manner in which a return he had asked for had been brought down by Mr. Reid, was not properly a question of privilege. Whether or not the return was a proper one was not a question that could be determined by himself.

Mr. Mitchell complained that the information he asked for could not be obtained by himself without perusing every item of the public accounts. Mr. Reid said he was not aware that the information was not fully and readily available from these accounts.

#### AN INCIDENT WHICH RELIEVED THE DULL ROUTINE

A day of dull routine, and filibustering on the Highways Bill, upon which Liberal members rose to speak many times throughout the day, was enlivened by an incident at question time which caused great amusement on all sides of the Assembly, and was afterwards the subject of much bantering talk in the lobbies. Following upon the publication of statistics relative to the heavy purchases of telephones during the election year of 1921, A. R. McLennan, one of the Liberal members for Edmonton, placed a question on the order paper, asking whether the Government had purchased

any telephone poles during the years 1922 and 1923, and if so, how many and what was the price paid, and where were the poles used. A report had gained circulation, in some manner, to the effect that the U. F. A. Government (in spite of the fact that the poles on hand were greatly in excess of requirements, and that many of these had been sold at a heavy loss), had itself made rather heavy new purchases. Mr. McLennan is more of a business man than a politician, and is more highly regarded in the Assembly on this account; but while he has shown no tendency to "play" politics, in the commonly accepted sense of the term, he did desire, as a matter of public interest, to ascertain whether there were any truth in these reports. That, it was understood, was the reason for placing the question on the order paper.

#### SEEKS TO WITHDRAW QUESTION

In the meantime, however, apparently having ascertained that the reports of heavy purchases were unfounded, Mr. McLennan decided that it would be unnecessary to ask his questions in the Assembly, and he asked that the questions be withdrawn. This could not be done without the consent of the Assembly, and when Mr. McLennan's request was made there was first a faint murmur of interest on the U. F. A. side of the Assembly, which presently broke into light laughter, and cries of "No! No!" The Speaker asked whether it was the pleasure of the Assembly that the questions be withdrawn. A few scattered "Yes's" on the opposition side of the Legislature were drowned in a chorus of "Noes."

V. W. Smith, Minister of Railways and Telephones, then read the answers, which were to the effect that the Government had purchased twelve telephone poles during the years 1922 and 1923, at a total cost, including hauling, of \$40. The members smiled, then applauded. Mr. Smith proceeded to give specifications of the various poles used, stating that five 25-ft. tamarac poles, costing \$2 each, were used to repair a long distance line near Wasel, Alta.; two 35-ft. cedar poles, at \$8 each, were used at a railway crossing at Carbon, Alta.; one 25-ft. tamarac pole, costing \$4, was used at Fawcett, Alta.; while four 25-ft. tamarac poles costing \$2.50 each, were used to complete an extension to the St. Paul exchange. Names of firms or persons from whom the purchases were made, were given in each instance.

#### COST OF THE TWO PLEBISCITES

In answer to Jos. Dechene, Liberal (Beaver River), it was stated that the cost of the plebiscite held on July 21st, 1911, was \$149,424.79, and that a total of 97,453 votes were cast. The cost of the plebiscite held on November 5th, 1923, insofar as accounts had been paid to date, was \$143,241.96, while the number of votes cast was 176,386. Only a few small items of expense in connection with the recent plebiscite remained outstanding, stated Premier Greenfield.

W. M. Davidson, Independent (Calgary), asked whether the Government called for tenders for all printing, and if not, what printing was done without tender. He also wished to know the value of printing done with and without tender in 1923. He was informed that the smaller work was done without call-



ing for tenders, and also any large jobs that must be rushed. In 1923 the Government spent \$128,350 on printing by tender, and \$72,249 on printing without tender.

The Assembly passed through committee a bill to amend the Agricultural Departments Act, giving power to the Government to raise \$250,000 for the promotion of co-operative marketing and the purchasing of cattle for feeding purposes. The purpose of the bill was explained by Geo. Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture.

Objection was raised by J. R. Boyle to the provision that this money might be used in part for the purchasing and feeding of cattle for re-sale, and he insisted that money so used was used for "speculative purposes." R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, said that in his opinion it was desirable to make the demonstration farms pay, that this was one of the matters which should command first attention, and that the feeding of cattle for re-sale would assist in that direction, while it would serve one of the purposes of the farms, as a demonstration in feeding.

The new Election Act was introduced by Alex. Ross, and given first reading. The main features of this new act were briefly outlined in "The U. F. A." of March 4th.

The new Hail Insurance Bill, which is dealt with in a special article elsewhere in this issue, passed through the committee stage, and awaits only third reading before being submitted for the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor.

#### HIGHWAYS BILL IN COMMITTEE

During discussion of the Highways Bill in Committee of the Whole, J. C. Bowen, raising objection to the financial provisions of the bill, contended that instead of financing the undertaking by borrowing, the Government should take the money yielded by automobile licenses from year to year, and use it for this purpose. The interest on the sum of \$3,500,000 for fifteen years, he said, would be \$2,500,000. It would be better, he thought, for the Government to improve the highways with the money now available, rather than to create a debt. The cost at the end of fifteen years would be \$6,000,000.

Correcting the member, Alex. Ross remarked that, as he had previously stated, the cost at the end of fifteen years would be \$5,340,000, not \$6,000,000. The Government would borrow from time to time to meet requirements. He believed that under the 15-year plan the Government would be able to command a very good price for the bonds.

#### "FINANCIAL PIRACY" AND "FINANCIAL SHARKISM"

Describing the financial arrangements of the bill as "financial piracy," and "financial sharkism," R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), said he had at first thought that the criticism offered by the opposition leader and the member for Bow Valley was unfair, but that he had finally come to the conclusion that they were right. The Government was going to take money from the Federal Aid grants, put it in current revenue "to keep down the deficit." Calling attention to Mr. Ross' statement that the Government was sure of a portion of the Federal Aid grant (amounting to 40 per cent. of the cost of construction), but not sure of all, since an extension of the

period during which it could be claimed must be sought, Mr. Marshall said, "I cannot imagine any Federal Government discriminating against this Province. If they do so it will be a sorry day for them, whatever their political complexion."

#### BILL NOT FAIR TO MOTORISTS

The Calgary member thought it would not be fair and decent to motorists for the Government to finance in the way proposed. He asked the Government to withdraw the bill, and bring in another, providing for the selling of bonds against the proceeds of motor licenses. Of the construction plans he had no criticism to offer, since these were much better than the plan followed under the former regime in this Province.

Alex. Ross, the Minister, could not see why it was expected that the road program could be carried out on current revenue. It was a common custom in the United States and elsewhere to retire bonds in the manner proposed, and there was nothing new, no departure from a common practice, in financing the undertaking.

C. R. Mitchell hoped that the motor vehicle fees would not be capitalized in the manner proposed by the Government. He believed that if the motor license fees were used for financing, increasing population of motor using people would prove adequate to meet the costs of the undertaking. The grant from Ottawa was to be earmarked for road building. It was designed, not to assist in paying for roads which had been built, but to "give an impetus" to road building, by encouraging the construction of new ones. It would not give this impetus by paying for roads which the Province had already laid down.

#### ROADS MUST BE BUILT TO OBTAIN GRANT

Mr. Galbraith, U. F. A. (Nanton), asked whether the money would be given by the Federal Government for money spent on roads by the Province, or in anticipation of money to be spent in the future. Mr. Mitchell admitted that the money would not be forthcoming until the work in respect to which the grants were made, was carried out. He went on to remark that he had given information on certain matters at meetings which he had addressed at Warner, Macleod, and other southern points, where his statements had not been disputed.

Perren Baker: "A number of things were said at those meetings which should have been disputed."

Mr. Mitchell contended that as there had been a revenue of \$298,000 from motor vehicles, which had not been spent, this should be added to the amount of the Provincial deficit. If it had been spent, the deficit would have been increased by that amount. During 1922 there was an amount of \$173,000 from motor licenses unexpended, bringing the total for the two years to \$472,000.

Robert Pearson, Independent (Calgary), urged that the amount received from the Dominion Government should be turned direct into highways account. He thought there had been some "side-stepping" as to the manner of financing.

Mr. Ross said that the money paid into the general revenue by the Federal Government would be paid only in compensation for highways construction which had actually been done.

J. W. Heffernan, Liberal (Edmonton), argued that the Government's receipts

from motor licenses, plus the Dominion grant, should be used as the means of financing the program, without any money being paid into the general revenue. He believed that in five years' time there would be a revenue of \$1,000,000 a year from motor licenses.

#### MUST BORROW OR FORFEIT FEDERAL AID

It was impossible to tell today what revenue would be paid in from motor licenses in five years' time, said Perren Baker. More money had been spent on roads last year than had been contributed in automobile taxes. The Province has to relinquish hope of obtaining the grants from the Dominion, or to borrow the money. If the opposition were willing that the grants from the Federal Treasury should be lost, their policy was the correct one. Mr. Baker pointed out that money would have to be borrowed by the Government in any event, and just as much under the opposition's scheme as under any other.

#### ENABLES GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW DEFINITE PLAN

W. M. Davidson, Independent (Calgary), expressing himself as a strong supporter of the policy announced by the Government, said that the difference between their plan and the other was that they would be able to work upon a definite program, knowing in advance what that program would be. He was quite definitely opposed to the principle of earmarking the proceeds of certain taxes for certain specific purposes. It was far better that these should be paid into the general revenue in the manner proposed.

J. R. Boyle did not consider that the Government's program was a real one. It was merely a means of "getting by." "The program," he said, "is not very well considered. The bonds should be for a longer period than fifteen years; their length should correspond as far as possible with the life of the road."

Mr. Boyle remarked that the policy of the new Government was that of the old Government over again, in certain respects. He did not think the Government could "thimble-rig" its program in such a way as to get votes.

#### SHIELD ON NEED FOR MARKET ROADS

W. H. Shield, U. F. A. (Macleod), dwelt upon the urgent necessity for better market roads. The Government's plan had the support of everyone in his district who had discussed it to any extent. It was admitted by automobile owners that all of the money from licenses should not be spent on highways, but that some of it should be devoted to market roads. A. L. Sanders, U. F. A. (Stettler), supported the Government plan, and said that if the roads could be brought up to the standard required by the Dominion Government, the Province would be entitled to the money.

The Dominion Government, said George MacLachlan, U. F. A. (Pembina), agreed that if the Province built highways to a certain standard, the grants would be given, and that was as far as the Dominion concerned itself in the matter. The conditioning of the roads which had already been partly made, would cost as much as making new roads, in many cases. There was no reason why the money should not be paid into the general revenue.

Calling attention to the very long discussion, occupying the greater part of several sittings of the Assembly, Mr.



Ross remarked that it was the evident intention of the opposition to prolong the debate as much as it could. Under the plan before the Assembly, the Government could get the grants from the Federal funds, the only question being the time limit. There was, of course, no absolute certainty about the grant after the period for which it was provided should have expired, until the Dominion had consented to an extension. If the later portion of the grant were withheld, then it would be necessary to meet the cost out of general revenue.

Dealing with proposals to pay the cost of the highways out of motor licenses, Mr. Ross pointed out that as the roads were built and extended there would be an increasing cost for maintenance and that it would be necessary to provide funds for this purpose.

Just prior to the adjournment for the day, J. C. Bowen rose to move his amendment. He read from the minutes of the Good Roads Board at some length quoting a passage in which Messrs. Clark and Gair were quoted to the effect that in their opinion the Minister had allowed the Board to go ahead and spend a great deal of time and effort "on making an allocation when he himself had already disposed of the money (for roads), and had no intention of taking the advice of the Board."

The minutes stated that "a free and informal discussion took place on the general topic of the duties and functions of the Board. The apparent disregard that had been paid to the recommendations of the Board re allocation of money to the districts, along with the resignation of the commissioner, had raised a suspicion in the minds of some of the commissioners that the purpose of the Department of Public Works was to so treat the Good Roads Board that it would constitute merely a formality, and not a reality.

#### WISHED BOARD TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY

"The discussion," the minutes stated, "was frank and resulted in the establishment of the conviction that insofar as the Minister of Public Works had pleased to assign duties and responsibilities to the Good Roads Board by means of a Public Highways Act, he wished to have the Board function effectively. Mr. Ross plainly stated that responsibility of action must remain in his own hands as the elected representative of the people; that he welcomed suggestions and advice that the Good Roads Board could offer, but that he held the prerogative of using or making no use of the advice as seemed fit to himself."

Some discussion took place on the position of C. A. Davidson, and it was stated by Mr. Ross that as chairman of the Good Roads Board he was now in effect highways commissioner.

Mr. Bowen was proceeding to argue that the money spent on highways should be spent in accordance with the recommendations of the Good Roads Board. Mr. Proudfoot asked by whom the Board and the commissioner were appointed.

Mr. Bowen: "By order-in-council, and they are responsible to the Minister."

[There was no sitting of the Assembly on March 5th, this being Ash Wednesday, always observed as a holiday.]

## Revised Liquor Bill in Assembly; First Evening Session

Local Option Retained—Hours of Public Sale of Beer—Highways Bill Passes Committee

### THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 6.—After a brisk debate in committee, a motion by Robert Pearson, one of the Independent members for Calgary, to strike out the local option clauses from the new Liquor Bill, was defeated by a substantial majority this evening, and the clauses stand in very similar form to the original draft with the additional provision that certain districts which petitioned the Government to be excluded from the area where public sale of beer will be permitted, will be excluded without a local plebiscite being necessary. A new clause in the bill sets the hours during which beer may be sold in hotels. Public sale will not be permitted between 7 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. Monday, nor before 7 a.m. or after 10 p.m. on any week days.

#### LONG "FILIBUSTER" CLOSES

The Highways Bill was passed through the committee stage shortly after midnight, thus bringing to a close, at the first night sitting, a protracted opposition "filibuster."

Shortly after 10 o'clock, when J. R. Boyle called attention to the lateness of the hour, Premier Greenfield stated that as the Highways Bill had been discussed very fully, it had been decided to continue the sitting to complete the committee stage.

There is no limit, however, to the number of times that the same speaker may have the floor in committee, and the opposition, which did not consider that the debate should be brought to a close at this time, continued the discussion, members reading at considerable length from documents, or seeking new angles from which to attack the measure, and offering a new amendment after each defeat.

When a member of the opposition suggested that the power in the hands of the Minister might make patronage possible, Alex. Ross explained the policy adopted by the Government, whereby roadwork is determined by the area, population and the road mileage in each constituency, and challenged any member of the Assembly to say that his constituency had been unfairly treated. The challenge was not taken up, although Captain Pearson, Independent member for Calgary, remarked that some people in that city had expressed dissatisfaction at times during the past year, and another member of the Legislature pointed out that this was the constituency of the Minister of Public Works himself. The Good Roads Board, Mr. Ross indicated, had always been an advisory body, subject to control by the Minister. Mr. Ross stated that C. A. Davidson had been appointed Highways Commissioner on February 1st, 1924, and that his salary was \$3,400 per annum. The discussion of the Liquor Bill and the filibuster on the Highways Bill were the principal events of the day.

## PEARSON MOVES REJECTION OF LOCAL OPTION

In moving the rejection of the portion of the Liquor Bill dealing with local option, Captain Pearson said that he did so, not as an opponent of local option, but for the purpose of ascertaining definitely upon whom responsibility for this section rested, as there was an erroneous impression abroad that the proposal came from the prohibitionist camp, and the prohibitionists did not wish to be told, in the event of the bill, with local option included, not working out in a satisfactory manner, that they were responsible. Mr. Brownlee announced that that section was included at the Government's own suggestion.

Division of opinion upon this motion cut clean across party lines, as in fact it has done since the Liquor Bill was first submitted for a free vote of the Assembly.

#### OPPORTUNITY TO GET WHAT THEY WANTED

M. J. Conner, U. F. A. (Warner), was convinced that many people who had voted for Clause "D" were opposed to public drinking places, but as they desired the sale of liquor under Government control for consumption in private residences, they had no alternative but to vote for the clause. He believed that under local option they would now be given the opportunity, which they had a right to demand. Donald Cameron took a similar view of the matter, and said that he found that the small towns were opposed to public sale.

"I have heard no objection to local option which I find convincing," said Mrs. Parlyb, who added that the plan to be followed seemed absolutely fair, since it gave the right to districts where there was a large majority against public sale, to get what they wanted.

J. Russell Love, U.F.A., (Wainwright), believed that those who did not want public sale should be allowed full freedom to make their wishes effective.

#### DAVIDSON SEES OUTSTANDING OBJECTION

Declaring that the outstanding objection to local option was that no provision had been made for it in Clause "D," W. M. Davidson, Independent (Calgary), said that if these clauses were adopted, the people would never be convinced that Clause "D" had been given a fair show. He did not believe that local option could be effectively applied at this time in any areas smaller than a Province; the only way to make it enforceable was to make it Province-wide. Local option might have had a certain educational value in Ontario years ago, but in Alberta, where we had experience of prohibition, there was no need for such education. The fact was that nobody had asked for local option.

George Mills, Liberal, (Beaver River), declared his intention to vote for local option, while W. M. Washburn, U.F.A., (Stony Plain), said he found it difficult to understand the position of Mr. Davidson, who had declared that public drinking was one of the greatest of curses, and yet proposed to refuse the people the opportunity to vote against it.

Captain Pearson, after moving the deletion of the sections, said he wished to make it quite clear that he had no criticism of the Government to offer, as he believed that the Attorney General had acted most wisely in asking the views of all interests affected, prohibitionists,



moderationists, hotel men, etc., before framing the legislation submitted to the Assembly. The Government had shown their good faith to the people, and had brought down a good measure under the conditions imposed by the plebiscite, and it was only upon this one point that he wished to make any criticism. He was not personally opposed to local option, but wished the responsibility to be properly placed.

J. H. Heffernan, Liberal, (Edmonton), announcing his intention to vote against local option, said he did so because he did not believe the Legislature had any right to introduce a provision which had not been suggested in the plebiscite.

The section was strongly supported by S. Brown, U.F.A. (High River). "There were several things included in one question," said Mr. Brown, "and many voters in my constituency, while they wanted Government control, were opposed to public drinking." Fred J. White, Labor, (Calgary), believed that the Legislature had no right to force public drinking upon districts which did not desire it, and supported local option on this ground.

"The question in any event is to be decided by the people themselves—not by this Legislature," said George MacLachlan. "The same people who voted on the plebiscite will vote on local option, in any districts where a vote may be taken. If there is any doubt as to whether they want public drinking, this is the way they will decide the question. It can surely be left to the people's intelligence."

#### EXPLAINS WHY LOCAL OPTION WAS INCLUDED

Although the Government had asked the moderationists, the hotel men, restaurant men, brewers and prohibitionists (who did not see fit to make any representations) to express their views, said Mr. Brownlee, when the Cabinet came to frame the bill they did so, not from the standpoint of the moderationists, or of any other group. They sought only to bring in a measure which, while carrying out the popular mandate, would be the best legislation they could suggest. "We decided," the Attorney General declared, "that it would not be a fair thing to force public drinking on communities that did not want it."

Mr. Brownlee pointed out that there was a distinct difference between local option, as provided for in this bill, and a vote which would result in absolute local prohibition—since there would be no interference in any case with consumption in private residences. While the more drastic form of prohibition might be difficult to enforce in small local areas, it would not be so difficult to make the prohibition of public drinking effective. In British Columbia local option was actually carried out in practice, though it had not specifically been provided for, while under the Quebec and Manitoba laws there was wide provision for local option.

J. R. Boyle declared that there had been "a mess made in the preparation of the ballot," and that this was evidenced by the different interpretations which members placed upon it. The Government should have drawn up the ballot themselves. He would vote for local option. Lorne Proudfoot, U.F.A., (Acadia), said the people of his district voted for Clause "D," because they were tired of sales by doctors and druggists, and he read a letter from one of his constituents to this effect.

#### "SIDESTEPPING ISSUE STILL." SAYS MCKEEN

"I agree that there have been errors in connection with this question," said M. C. McKeen, U.F.A., (Lac Ste Anne), "and the errors started right over there with the leader of the opposition who sidestepped the issue last session, when his party was asked to name a member on the committee that drew up the ballot. If he possesses the combined wisdom of the people of the Province on this subject, he should have assisted. He sidestepped the issue then, and he is sidestepping it now."

There was no answer to this charge, and Mr. McKeen, who strongly opposed local option from the beginning, challenged any member of the Assembly to state that he had heard it mentioned in the campaign last November.

"Yes, I did," came the unexpected answer from Mr. Chornohus, the U. F. A. member for Whitford.

A. M. Matheson, U.F.A., (Vegreville), referring to the fact that certain members who supported local option voted for the establishment of Government liquor vendors' stores in their districts, said he would "hate to deprive any member of his pet Government store."

Mr. Davidson submitted the suggestion that local option be dropped from the present bill, and that the subject be submitted to a plebiscite at the next general election. Supporting local option Alex Moore, U.F.A., (Cochrane), contended that the people had voted for Clause "D" primarily in protest against the old act.

Mrs. McClung came out definitely and unequivocally for local option. There was no danger of setting a precedent that could be taken advantage of by the anti-prohibitionist forces at any future time, she said, because the prohibitionists, when the question was submitted again, would submit a complete bill. The Government had been blamed for not taking responsibility. "Now," said Mrs. McClung, "they take responsibility, and I am going to commend them for it. In cutting out public drinking places I believe we shall go a long way towards re-establishing sobriety."

Announcing his decision to support the sections, R. C. Marshall said the Liberals had been absolutely unanimous in their decision last session to take no part in the framing of the ballot.

#### NO PUBLIC DRINKING IN THESE AREAS

On local option being agreed to, Mr. McKeen moved the deletion of Section 78, which established as areas in which no public drinking shall be allowed, certain municipalities which have petitioned the Government to make such provision. The motion was defeated. The areas concerned are: Improvement Districts Nos. 7, 8, 9, Municipal District of Cochrane No. 10, Municipal District of Sugar City No. 38, and Improvement District No. 38.

#### DEFINITION OF "RESIDENCE."

Under the bill as reprinted a "residence" to which liquor may be delivered is defined as any part of a building in which a person resides, but no part of the building not actually used as a private residence. Provision is made for the appointment, if necessary, of officials other than those in the office of the commissioner, who may issue permits. Beer may be delivered by a vendor to a license holder, but only for cash.

Section 18 of the bill, which provides that liquor being conveyed to a residence or licensed place may not be opened in transit, and Clause 19, which deals with permits, gave rise to a sharp debate. Mrs. McClung remarked that permits for hunting parties had been suggested, and asked whether provision was made for them. There was no such provision, and S. Tobin protested that there was a danger of the Assembly passing a law which was bound to be broken. George MacLachlan contended that if it were made legal for hunting parties to obtain permits to carry liquor in cars, "all the bootleggers in the north are going to be on hunting trips." It would be very difficult to suppress bootlegging if such wide freedom were given. It appeared to Mr. McKeen that the average man who had consumed a third portion of a bottle of liquor in an hotel would take the remaining two-thirds home with him when he left, in any event. The law, if it were not reasonable, would certainly be broken.

Mr. Brownlee: "You can't have Government control and unrestricted individual liberty. If you are going to make provisions for a hundred and one different cases, you might as well make the law wide open."

#### CASUAL LAWBREAKING AND BOOTLEGGING.

Mr. McKeen asked the Attorney-General whether he did not believe in all seriousness that the law would be broken every day if this went in the bill. He had not drunk two quarts of hard liquor in forty years, but he wished to see a law established that could be enforced.

Mr. Brownlee: "That may happen, but is that any reason why we should change the act in such a way that bootleggers could take advantage of it? The object of this act is to allow a man to consume liquor in a private residence or hotel; not in public conveyances."

Dr. Stewart asked that some special provision be made for hotels which would not permit the sale of hard liquor, and Mr. Brownlee promised the matter his consideration.

No club which was not in operation before January 1st, 1923, or which, being formed hereafter, shall have been in operation for less than two years, will be granted a license. The period was raised from one to two years on motion of Mr. Matheson.

The bill provides for canteen licenses in military and R.C.M.P. camps and barracks. Under this Section provision will be made to enable the Imperial War Veterans, who have a Dominion charter, but are only just in process of establishment, to obtain licenses.

A proposal that for the convenience of small towns it should be permissible for hotels to sell beer in bottles, to be taken away, was not considered desirable by Mr. Brownlee. If experience should show its desirability, the law could be changed.

#### HOTELS MUST BE UP TO STANDARD

The bill provides definite regulations as to the accommodation and sanitary conditions which must be met before any hotel can obtain a license. It is proposed that licenses may be granted for the first five hundred population or fraction, a second for the next five hundred or fraction, a third for at least two thousand and a fourth for at least three thousand. It was not decided whether additional licenses should be given for



each additional two thousand or each additional four thousand, the section being allowed to stand.

Dr. Stewart urged that public drinking places should be open to public view. "If any man is ashamed to be seen in a public drinking place, he should stay out," said Mr. McKeen.

The bill as submitted provided that public drinking places should be open until eleven o'clock on Saturday night, and ten o'clock on other nights of the week. On motion of Mr. Davidson the closing hour for Saturday was fixed at seven o'clock. Mr. Brown thought seven o'clock too early, and that for the convenience of threshing crews going into town on Saturday evening nine o'clock would be more satisfactory. Mr. McKeen believed that if beer were made easy to obtain, the demand for hard liquor would practically disappear.

#### HIGHWAYS BILL PASSES COMMITTEE STAGE

In discussion of the Highways Bill, Mr. Boyle remarked sarcastically that the highways commission had been established "to abolish patronage," but that apparently now "some chickens were coming home to roost," and the Government found the Good Roads Board an impracticable institution. Mr. Bowen contended that the Government should adopt the amendment, or abolish the Board, and he contended that the powers of the Board had been taken away by a statute law amendment passed last session. The Government evidently wished "to go back to the patronage system."

Mr. Brownlee: "To go BACK to the patronage system?"

Mr. Washburn asked how Mr. Bowen had voted on the matter of the Commission, the Edmonton member replying that he could not remember.

Mr. Ross then read the provisions of the Highways Act of 1922, which provided for a Board with power to recommend the allocation of road work, which power it retained today.

"I have power to reject or adopt the Board's recommendations and if I am to be answerable to this House for the work which is carried out, I am going to maintain this authority," declared the Minister. The Board, he said, was always advisory. It was doing excellent work.

#### BOYLE RESENTS ALLUSION TO OLD SYSTEM

Mr. Ross then described the reasons which had led the Government to adopt its present method of allocating expenditures on market roads—on the basis of the area, population and road mileage, in the various constituencies. They had come to this decision, he said, after discovering the manner in which road work had been carried on up to 1921. He cited figures showing that in that year \$55,000 was spent on roads in St. Paul, \$49,000 in Sturgeon, and \$43.40 in High River, and was proceeding to state that the government had come to the conclusion that a system under which there could arise such disparities in expenditure provided very wide opportunities for graft, when J. R. Boyle sprang to his feet, and in an excited manner demanded, "Why do you charge the late Government with graft? There was nothing of the sort indicated in the audit."

Mr. Ross, composedly: "I did not charge the late Government with graft. I said there were opportunities for graft under the old system."

Mr. Boyle: "That is the same thing."

Mr. Ross: "I was merely pointing out, as was obviously the case, that the disparity would indicate that there were opportunities for graft."

Mr. Boyle: "I challenge the honorable Minister to show one single case of graft." The member added that the Government had come to the conclusion.

Mr. Ross, unmoved: "What I am saying is that under the conditions I have described there were splendid opportunities for it."

There the incident ended, and Mr. Ross went on to describe in some detail the plan which is now being followed. It was then that he issued a challenge to any member of the Assembly to say that his constituency did not get a square deal under the new system, and that Capt. Pearson called attention to the fact that a complaint had been received from Calgary.

#### NOT ENOUGH FOR NORTH COUNTRY

The Good Roads Board, said the Minister, had arrived at a proposed program of road work which he did not consider a very good one in certain respects, as it overlooked the enormous expense of road construction in the north. It fell short by 100 per cent. of the expenditures which he considered necessary in St. Paul, Beaver River, Grouard, Athabasca, Lac Ste. Anne, and Pembina.

Mr. Ross stated that in 1921 the authorized expenditure on road work was \$404,000, and the actual expenditure was \$653,000.

Answering a statement by Mr. Bowen, who expressed the opinion that an amendment to the Highways Act passed last session, giving the Minister power to allocate grants for municipal districts, rendered the act null and void, Mr. Ross declared that the act was still in full operation and in exactly the same position as in 1922, except that the amendment gave the Minister power to allocate funds for other than market roads. The reason why this amendment was necessary, said Mr. Ross, was that he had not had opportunity to complete the allocation of market roads, and that in the meantime it was not desired that work should be suspended on roads which had not been definitely allocated. He could not confirm these roads as market roads, however, until the plans had been developed. The Good Roads Board had been from the beginning, not an administrative, but an advisory body.

R. C. Marshall did not think it was meet that any public man should use the word "graft." He agreed with the Minister of Public Works that he should be responsible for the road program, and if he had been present at the meeting of the Good Roads Board, would have made exactly the same statement as Mr. Ross. Mr. Marshall thought that the Board should be done away with, but if it was not going to be done away with, he would vote for Mr. Bowen's amendment.

During the later discussion Mr. Matheson stated that the audit report of 1921 showed that the old Government had over-expended its road appropriation by more than \$300,000, without authorization, on election road building. Mr. Mitchell contended that the audit statement was incorrect, and that the monies had been authorized to be spent by the Minister or Deputy Minister.

At the opening of the sitting a bill respecting the introduction of the two-platoon system for employees of fire de-

partments was read a first time on motion of Donald Cameron, U.F.A., (Innisfail), and a bill to regulate the hours of labor of employees of fire departments was given first reading on motion of Mr. M. C. McKeen, U.F.A. member for Lac Ste. Anne.

## Control of Liquor Advertising May Be Provided for in Act

Question of Division of Liquor Profits Left Over for Present

### FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 7.—A large number of the new and amended clauses in the Liquor Bill were accepted today without protest, while others were warmly debated before being passed. A few were allowed to stand over for reconsideration by the Attorney-General's Department. Among those undecided were the clauses dealing with advertising, which had appeared in the first bill, but which had been eliminated from the redraft. There was quite a good deal of opinion, on both sides of the Assembly, that some form of control of advertising, notably the restriction of undesirable bill board advertising, was necessary.

#### MAY BE MODIFIED CONTROL OF ADVERTISING

Neither the mail service, nor the newspapers not published in Alberta, come within the jurisdiction of the Province, and there can be no censorship or supervision of these two forms of reaching the public. Mr. Brownlee asked time to reconsider the entire question, and there will possibly be some modified control proposed in the next draft.

Policemen and inspectors will retain the right to search cars, etc., without warrant, it was decided. Penalties will not be so heavy as in the first bill, but they are considered by most legislators as very reasonable. Considerable amusement was created when Mr. Brownlee, in discussing fines, said that Alberta prisons were so much more comfortable than some homes that accused people often preferred to go to prison.

Hunting or picnic parties have no special permits granted so far.

C. R. Mitchell objected to the process by which the commissioner is empowered to raise the funds necessary to purchase stocks or other property, and the clauses were also held over for reconsideration.

#### DIVISION OF PROFITS LEFT OVER FOR PRESENT

The division of profits was left undecided until next session of the Legislature. In the meantime the profits, if any, will be turned into general revenue. In the subsequent division, profits will be reckoned as from the first of January, 1924, so that if it is decided to divide them proportionately between the Province and municipalities, this year will count in the division. It may be decided to let the entire net profits go into the General Revenue, and make other tax adjustments with the cities in lieu of liquor profits.

#### STRONGLY PROTEST AGAINST LIQUOR ADVERTISING

Mrs. McClung, Mrs. Parlby, and Messrs. Galbraith and Conner strongly objected

(Continued on page 14).



# Fifty Thousand Contracts Distributed Ready for Wheat Pool Drive

Preparations for "Sign Up" Campaign Which Opens on March 17th Now Almost Complete—Revised List of Meetings to Be Addressed by Trustees

## NEW PRICE LISTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 15th

It is announced by C. M. Elliott of the Wheat Pool, that arrangements have been completed to advance the Pool's initial payment ten cents per bushel on all grades of wheat. The new price lists have been forwarded to all elevator points, and will become effective on March 15th.

Cheques for the payment of ten cents per bushel on all wheat delivered to the Pool prior to March 15th are being mailed to the growers as quickly as possible.

By the time that this paper is in the hands of its readers, the date set for the beginning of the Wheat Pool drive will be close at hand, and preparations will be almost completed.

Fifty thousand contracts have been newly printed and distributed throughout the Province, and supplies of contracts, canvassers' report forms, self-addressed envelopes, and instructions to canvassers will be available at all rural post offices, banks, municipal secretaries' offices and co-operative trading association offices. Supplies have also been sent direct to the secretary of each U. F. A. Local and Wheat Pool Local in the Province, to all Wheat Pool delegates, to the secretaries of the various Federal and Provincial constituency associations and to all U. F. A. Directors. The Board of Trustees ask that workers apply at one or more of the above mentioned supply depots before phoning or writing the Head Office for further supplies.

## Look to Officers of U. F. A.

A circular letter from R. O. German, secretary, points out "that there are some districts which unfortunately are not represented by either a U. F. A. Local or a Wheat Pool Local, and that if some steps are not taken to arrange for the canvassing of these districts, it may happen that some of these territories will remain uncanvassed. We are, therefore, looking to the officers of the U. F. A. and to the officers of our Federal and Provincial Constituency Associations to act in a supervisory capacity and to take steps to see that the work is organized in the districts mentioned above."

Each farmer who signed up last fall and withdrew in the time allowed for that purpose is being asked to sign a reinstatement form which will, if signed and returned to this office, place him in full membership again. It is not necessary for him to sign a new contract, but he may do so if he wishes.

Meetings to be addressed by members of the Board of Trustees have been arranged as follows:

### H. W. Wood

Lacombe, Thursday, March 13th, 8 p.m.; Ponoka, Friday, March 14th, 2 p.m.; Leduc, Saturday, March 15th.

R. N. Mangles, North Calgary District  
Sunnyside, March 13th; Halliday, March 14th; Roselyn, March 15th; Irricana, March 18th; Nightingale, March 19th; Standard, March 20th.

W. J. Jackman, Edmonton District  
Fort Saskatchewan, March 13th, 2 p.m.; Rochester, March 14th, 8 p.m.; Morinville, March 15th, 2:30 p.m.; Legal, not known; Gibbons' Siding, March 18th, 2 p.m.; Holden, March 19th, not known; Edgerton, March 20th, 2:30 p.m.; Wainwright, March 20th, 8 p.m.; Irma, March 21st, 2:30 p.m.; Winterburn, March 22nd, 2:30 p.m.; Spruce Grove, March 22nd, 8 p.m.; Kitscoty, March 25th, 2 p.m.; Blackfoot, March 25th, 8 p.m.; Bruderheim, March 26th, 2:30 p.m.; Chipman, March 27th; Mundare, March 28th.

H. C. McDaniel, Lethbridge District  
Burdett, March 11th; Bow Island, March 12th; Winnifred, March 13th; Seven Persons, March 14th; Dunmore, March 15th.

### C. Jensen, Lethbridge District

Magrath, March 13th, 7 p.m.; Milk

River, March 14th, 2 p.m.; Warner, March 14th, 8 p.m.; New Dayton, March 15th, 12 noon; Spring Coulee, March 15th, 8 p.m.; Purple Springs, March 20th, 3 p.m.; Taber, March 20th, 8 p.m.; Barnwell, March 21st, 3 p.m.; Coaldale, March 21st, 8 p.m.

### Low Hutchinson, Camrose District

Daysland, March 13th, 3 p.m.; Bashaw, March 14th, 3 p.m.; Donalda, March 14th, 8 p.m.; Edberg, March 15th, 4 p.m.; New Norway, March 15th, 8 p.m.; Rosalind, March 17th, 3 p.m.; Round Hill, March 18th, 3 p.m.

In order to make it completely effective it is necessary that everyone interested in the drive should do his part. By making known the meetings to be addressed throughout the Province by the Wheat Pool Trustees, as listed above, and inducing those who have been indifferent to attend; by calling to the notice of constituency association officers any territory which is not being canvassed by U. F. A. or Wheat Pool Locals; in short, by volunteering to help in every way possible, every person who hopes for favorable results from this great undertaking, can do much to bring about the realization of those results.

## Livestock Shipping Association Will Seek to Co-ordinate Efforts

Meeting Will Be Held in Lacombe on March 20th at 2 p.m.—Outcome of Conference Held During Convention Week

A meeting of representatives of Livestock Shipping Associations of the Province, and all others interested in the co-operative method of marketing livestock, will be held in the Theatre Building, Lacombe, at 2 p.m. on March 20th, according to a letter received from A. C. Johnstone, who writes in behalf of a committee appointed in Edmonton during the week of the Annual Convention. Mr. Johnstone has written to all shipping associations reporting the steps taken at the Edmonton meeting, and urging the formation of associations. With the letter he enclosed a copy of the contract used by the Buffalo Lake Shipping Association. This contract binds the signers to ship all livestock through the association, until June, 1924, under penalty of paying to the association 20 per cent. of the appraised value of any stock sold through any other channel.

In reference to this matter Mr. Johnstone writes:

"During the last five years the shipping of livestock co-operatively has increased by leaps and bounds in this Province. No branch of the organization program has been of greater practical benefit."

"The Buffalo Lake Shipping Association, handling cattle, sheep and hogs on a contract basis for its members, is one of the more recent to organize, and has handled a large volume of business since June, 1923.

### Competition Between Associations

"A meeting of the directors of this association in early January came to the conclusion that while marvellous strides had been made in the co-operative assembling of livestock shipments, we had not achieved our objective in avoiding the competition of one association with another. The system of drover buying

has been eliminated in many cases, but the individual association, in its relationship to the open market, occupies much the same position as the individual producer of livestock did a few years ago.

"In order to remove this stumbling block, which threatens some associations with disaster, it is imperative that the efforts of all shipping associations in the Province be co-ordinated, adopting, as far as respective conditions will permit, a uniform basis for operation and having one central selling agency.

"With this end in view, the Buffalo Lake board elected a delegation to attend the Annual Convention and to endeavor to arrange a meeting of representatives of shipping associations in attendance at the Convention.

"On the evening of January 16th about 25 persons met, and expressed deep interest in the proposal. W. J. Elliott, of the U. G. G. Livestock Department, addressed the gathering, and very strongly advocated selling through one channel.

"An adjourned meeting was held the following evening, when nine districts were represented: Cardston, Vegreville, Telfordville, Iridin, Clover Hill, Bashaw, Vermilion, Islay and Kitscoty. This meeting unanimously passed a resolution favoring unified action of all shipping associations in the Province, such unified action to include a central selling agency and a central executive, with, preferably, the contract method of delivery.

"This meeting commissioned the writer to gather all information that would further the object and interest of the meeting, and convene a subsequent meeting.

"This will be the next logical step toward agricultural emancipation, and will require the earnest, steadfast endeavor of all."



# Many Original Plans Adopted by Locals in Membership Drives

Correspondence Received by "The U. F. A." Indicates That Drives Are Being Continued With Undiminished Vigor

Sedalia Local have just concluded a successful membership drive. The campaign was enthusiastically carried on; not a man for miles around who was not already a member of some Local escaped the persuasive eloquence of the workers. Thirty-six members were secured, and the oyster supper and social given at the conclusion was thoroughly enjoyed by about sixty people.

Hooper Local reversed the usual plan of canvassing, by gathering together nearly all the people of the community at a box social and dance. During the evening the canvassers worked, and signed up twenty-five members for 1924. The event also realized the sum of \$60 for the Local treasury.

An increase of 50 per cent. over last year's membership is reported by Norton Local, while the secretary of Lorraine Local writes that "our Local has taken on new life again, and the meetings are excellently attended."

New members are being added to Tring Local, who recently received a visit from the secretary, Mrs. M. E. Graham, and other members of Riverton Local. Mrs. Graham gave a short talk on the methods followed by Riverton Local to maintain interest, and one of her suggestions, that women might pay their dues by serving lunch at meetings, was immediately adopted. At this meeting, lunch was served by the men, and there was an interesting program of athletic stunts.

## Fifty Per Cent. Increase

Delburne Local has now about 50 per cent. more members than last year, and are planning a drive to round up any who are still outside the organization. An entertainment will begin the drive.

At a recent meeting George Paton, Sr., addressed the Local, and his contention that the only hope of civilization lay in the inauguration of a system of production for use and not for profit, was favorably received by most of those present.

Recently a carload of flour, bran and shorts was brought in by the Local, and sold for cash, at considerable reductions over the retail prices.

## Expect 95 Per Cent. of Farmers Will Join

That members are paying their dues earlier in the year and with a better spirit than for some time is the report of the secretary of Heather Brae Local. They expect that about 95 per cent. of the farmers in the district will belong to the Local within a few weeks.

## Membership More Than Doubled

Membership in the New Norway Local shows steady improvement. There are now 24 members, as compared with 11 at the end of 1923, and there are still a few more "prospects" to hear from. An accumulation of debts is being disposed of, and the finances of the Local are reaching a satisfactory condition. Interest at the meetings centres in the co-operative movement, and the various developments are being studied.

## Enrolled 90 Per Cent. of Farmers

G. E. Roose, U. F. A. director for Victoria, has addressed meetings recently at the following places: Willow Hollow,

Pleasington, Rosewood school, Fairgrove school, Merna and Wyoming school. Mr. Roose writes that Locals at these points are all showing good progress, and that some of them have enrolled 90 per cent. of the farmers in their districts as members.

## APPRECIATE SINCERITY OF GOVERNMENT

The editor of "The U. F. A." has received from A. Walker, Provincial President of the G. W. V. A., a copy of the resolutions adopted at the recent Provincial convention, including the following:

"Resolved, that this convention assembled expresses its appreciation of the Provincial Government of Alberta for their real sincerity in endeavoring to give the Province a Liquor Act in accordance with the will of the people, and that the Provincial Government have the whole-hearted support of this organization in its effort to enforce the act as it is finally passed by the Legislature."

## CRAIGMYLE DISTRICT CONVENTION

The first convention of the Craigmyle U. F. A. District Association (to be held three times a year) will be held in the Farmers' Hall, Craigmyle, on March 27th, commencing at 1:30 p.m. R. N. Mangles, Wheat Pool trustee, will give an address.

## Marked Increase in U.F.W.A. Membership First Two Months

### Junior Branch Membership Fewer Than in Corresponding Period Last Year—Increase in February

In the U. F. W. A. there has been a very marked expansion during the first two months of 1924—not so great, as yet, as in the men's organization. There was a falling off in January, but a large increase in February.

The figures for the U. F. W. A. are as follows:

### UNITED FARM WOMEN

Memberships paid in January and February, 1924	408
Memberships paid in January and February, 1923	295
Memberships paid in January and February, 1922	264

### JUNIOR BRANCH

In the Junior Branch there was a falling off in January, but a substantial increase in February, as compared with last year's figures, though the total for the two months is still somewhat behind. The totals were:

Memberships paid in January and February, 1924	194
Memberships paid in January and February, 1923	218
Memberships paid in January and February, 1922	287
Memberships paid in February, 1924	117
Memberships paid in February, 1923	77
Memberships paid in February, 1922	177

## GRAIN PRICES

are low and the Grain Growers' expenses are no less so that it becomes imperative that every Grain Grower should endeavor to dispose of his grain in such a way that he will get every fraction of a cent there is in it.

We can dispose of your wheat, oats, barley, rye and flax in an intelligent and satisfactory way. We handle strictly on commission, advance money on shipping bills, look carefully after grading, obtain best prices and furnish prompt settlements.

If you have grain to sell it will pay you to write to us at once for Price Prospects, shipping bills and full information as to how you can get the most out of your grain.

We also handle investment and hedging orders in grain futures.

## THOMPSON, SONS & COMPANY

Established 1884.

Grain Commission Merchants  
745 H Grain Exchange, Winnipeg  
104 Helgeson Block, Saskatoon



*It's So Simple  
If You Will Use*

**ROBIN  
HOOD**  
[The Money Back]  
**FLOUR**

**My dear, you just can't  
help baking better bread  
and cakes and things.  
Do order some today  
and see.**

## FOR SALE

S. C. Rhode Island Reds and Barred Plymouth Rocks. Pullets and breeding males from selected stock. Pullets \$2.25 each; Males \$5.00 and \$3.00 each; Day old chicks, during April 30c. each, May 25c. each, June 20c. each; Hatching eggs from birds with R.O.P. records over 175 eggs, \$5.00 per setting of fifteen; three settings \$12.00; Flock matings \$2.00 per setting of fifteen, \$10.00 per hundred. C. P. R. Demonstration Farm, Strathmore, Alberta.



# Three Basic Changes in Hail Insurance Act Adopted by Assembly Last Week

Automatic Features of Legislation Abolished—Status of Owner and Renter Changed—Five Different Rates Provided For.

By A. H. TOVELL, Manager Alberta Hail Insurance Board.

Acting upon representations made by the Hail Insurance Board, supported by resolutions from a large majority of the Municipal Districts in the Province, and endorsed by the last U.F.A. Convention, the Government has passed a number of amendments to the Municipal Hail Insurance Act, bringing about three basic changes.

## All Districts On Same Basis.

The first applies to the automatic feature of the Municipal Plan. For the last five years, in the 72 districts that voted in favor of the act, all crops were automatically insured from year to year unless the land was withdrawn before a certain date. In the districts that voted against the plan in 1919, the owner of the land could apply for and obtain insurance, if certain requirements were fulfilled. The act as now amended puts all municipal districts in the Province on exactly the same basis, and the ratepayer who wishes insurance must apply for it, and if he wishes the protection the following year, or in any year, application must be made each time. Although the automatic system met with more general approval than the old compulsory system in vogue from 1914 to 1918 inclusive, it was found to be confusing in many respects and was also found to work a hardship in some cases. It is true that possibly a larger volume of business resulted from the automatic system, on account of obtaining the insurance of the man who intended to insure but neglected to do so, and also the insurance of the man who intended to withdraw and did not, but the Board has always been of the opinion that the voluntary plan would be more satisfactory.

## Protection Must Be Applied For.

Under the new plan, then, no crop is insured unless the protection has been applied for, and this brings us to the second basic change in the regulations—namely, the making of the application. An application blank will be sent out with each of the calendars which are being mailed at the present time, and every municipal secretary will also have a supply of forms on hand. The applications must be signed by the owner of the land, not necessarily the registered owner, but the man whose name appears on the assessment roll of the district as the owner. The application will not be accepted on any but patented lands and cannot be accepted if the applicant is in arrears for hail insurance taxes in his municipal district for more than one year prior to the date of his application. A man on Soldier Settlement Board land desiring protection, will have to have his application signed by the S.S.B., agreeing to the imposition of the tax and guaranteeing its payment. Every application, when filled in, must be sent to the secretary of the municipal district in which the land is situated, who will endorse and forward it to the Board if it conforms with the requirements of the act. The insurance will come into effect as soon as

The amendments to the Municipal Hail Insurance Act described by Mr. Tovell on this page, were passed in Committee of the Whole in the Legislature last week, and are now due for Third Reading. As Mr. Tovell deals in a very comprehensive way with the effect of the new legislation, reference to this matter is omitted from the week's reports of proceedings in the Assembly.

the application is received by the Board.

The status of owner and renter in their relation to the act has also been changed. During the past five years, if there were no agreement between the owner and renter with reference to the insurance, and a loss occurred, the indemnity was divided on the same basis as the share of crop agreement; if there was an agreement it was used as the basis of division. Under the amended Act the indemnity will be divided as specified on the application for insurance. It will therefore be necessary, if the renter wishes to participate, to make arrangements with the owner of the land and see that the agreement as to the division appears on the application in the place provided.

## Five Different Rates.

The third basic change relates to the rates, or premium. Instead of having a flat rate for all those who insure, there will be five different rates used in the coming season. The Board has always maintained that the system of surcharge areas adopted by the companies is not fair, and this contention has been proved by the experience of years. In one of the surcharge areas, where the companies have charged 10 per cent. regularly, there are many farmers who have not been hailed in twelve years. There is one place in the Province where a man, if he

insures with a line company, pays ten per cent.; the man south of him pays 8 per cent.; and the man west of him pays 9 per cent. Storms do not cut off in that manner—the road allowance is not the dividing line.

For some time the Board has been endeavoring to work out a method that would be absolutely fair for the entire Province and they are convinced that the new sliding scale of rates will fulfill this requirement. Briefly stated it will work out in the following manner: if a man is insured under the Municipal Plan for \$10.00 an acre and his crop is not hailed, he will pay a minimum rate only; if his crop is hailed between 5 per cent. and 25 per cent. he will be charged 10c. additional per acre damaged; if hailed from 26 per cent. to 50 per cent. he will pay 20c. additional per acre; if hailed from 51 per cent. to 75 per cent., 30c. additional per acre will be charged, and if the damage is from 76 per cent. to 100 per cent. the additional charge will be 40c. per acre. In each case the additional charge will be made only on the damaged acreage. The surtax and minimum charge on \$8.00 and \$6.00 insurance will, of course, be proportionately lower.

## Designed to Cover Costs.

The five rates will be worked out so that the entire sum derived therefrom will be just sufficient to cover the losses and costs of administration, and to provide for adding a certain amount to the surplus fund.

This new method of arriving at the proper rates will place the charge against land that is hailed seldom or not at all, at the lowest possible figure, and will rightfully place the premium of the farmer whose crops are more subject to hail at a proportionately higher rate. It is believed that in this way the surcharge areas will be automatically taken care of.

## DEBENTURE DEBT OF MUNICIPALITIES

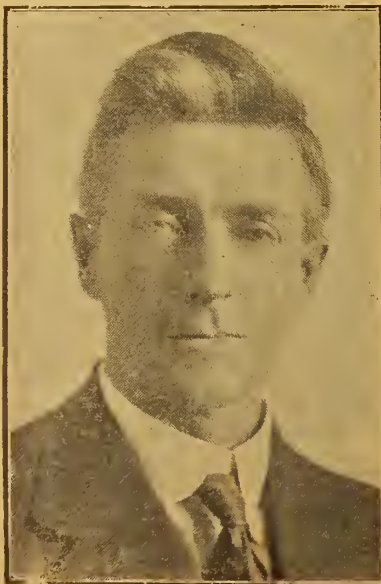
The total debenture debt of all Municipal Districts in Alberta on December 31st, 1922, was \$90,786.65, according to a return brought down in the Legislative Assembly recently. This sum was distributed as follows: Warner, \$16,680; Keoma, \$14,750; Bertawan, \$9,000; Golden Centre, \$1,434.37; Sounding Creek, \$6,900; Birch Lake, \$3,486.88; Spruce Grove, \$3,264.23; Boucher, \$2,500; Nelson, \$3,000; Spirit River, \$24,000; Peace, \$5,772.12.

The assessed value of Municipal Districts in 1922 was \$473,334,938, and of Improvement Districts \$116,074,122.

The total net indebtedness of Municipal Districts at the end of the period named for seed grain, rye and relief, was as follows: Seed Grain, \$2,677,131.79; Rye, \$12,904.86; Relief, \$1,012,984.59; total, \$3,703,021.24.

The total net debenture debt of all villages was, \$97,266; of all towns, \$3,286,758; and of all cities, \$57,357,838.

J. M. Keynes, of the University of Cambridge, adviser to the British Treasury at the Paris Peace Conference, whose views upon the problems of reparations and the economic settlement of Europe are today shared by several European Governments, declares that the gold standard is an illusion, that there should be no return to it.



A. H. TOVELL



## New Lease for U.F.A. Offices Accepted by Central Executive

### Decrease in Stockyards Charges Demand- ed—Executive Deals With Various Important Resolutions

A meeting of the Central Executive was held in Edmonton on February 15th, all members of the Executive being present.

Mr. Scholefield reported that the resolutions passed at the last meeting of the Committee on Commerce and Agriculture had been presented to the Cabinet on February 9th.

Messrs. Bevington, Sears and Scholefield reported on the conference held in Edmonton on February 6th, 7th and 8th, between three members of the Mortgage Loans Association and three members of the Provincial Government, to discuss the requests of the Mortgage Loans Association with regard to amendments to the mortgage legislation.

It was decided that the new lease for the offices now used by the U.F.A., for a term of three years, should be accepted.

#### Protest Against Stockyards Increases.

A resolution was passed instructing delegates to the Canadian Council of Agriculture meeting to protest against increases in stockyard charges, and demand decrease, especially on profit on hay, and that head charges at Calgary and Edmonton be reduced to the average charges at the other yards.

Mrs. Gunn and Mr. Scholefield were appointed members of the senior committee on Junior work, to act with Mrs. R. Clarke Fraser, who was appointed by the U.F.W.A. It was decided to authorize the opening of a Junior Conference Fund, as in former years.

E. D. Battum was appointed auditor for the year 1924.

A resolution from Camrose Local, dealing with a U.F.A. Provincial Livestock Pool, was referred to the co-operative committee.

#### Resolutions From Annual Convention.

A number of resolutions referred to the Executive by the Annual Convention were dealt with. It was decided that copies of the resolution regarding a Provincial platform should be forwarded to the Federal Constituency Associations, asking them to report to the Executive as to what action they would favor in carrying out the suggestion. The resolution asking for co-ordination of membership fees was referred to the full Board. The matter of co-operative long term rural credit societies, having been dealt with by the Legislative Committee of the U.F.A., in conference with the Provincial Government, was left over for further consideration. The resolution asking for reduction in express rates was referred to the U.F.A. Transportation committee, with instructions that they look into the matter and report to the Executive.

It was decided that the U.F.A. should be represented at a conference of Employment Bureaux to be held in early March. Mr. Scholefield was appointed a fraternal delegate to the Canadian Labor Party Convention.

Copies of the Declaration of Principles of the Canadian Council of Agriculture will be sent to the Federal Constituency Associations.

A proposal that the U.F.A. banking committee should co-operate with the Monetary Educational League was discussed, and the consensus of opinion appeared to be that the U.F.A. banking committee had full powers of investigation only, and that it would be their duty before taking any definite action to obtain the sanction of the Board.

### U.F.A. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

#### AUTHORITY OF J. P.

**Question:** Can a Justice of the Peace order a man, who is running stock at large in a prohibited area, to withdraw his stock, without having a formal trial of the man?

**Answer:** A Justice of the Peace has no particular authority to order a man to remove his stock off the place if they are running at large in a prohibited area. He has no authority whatever except when acting in his official capacity after an information had been laid, and in which he would be obliged to hear the evidence for and against the accused. In the case you mention it would be quite in order for the Provincial Police to order the cattle to be removed; if the owner refuses to comply an information would have to be sworn out and the action brought before a magistrate or Justice of the Peace in the regular way.

## PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



# The Motor Vehicle Act

**T**HE administration of the Motor Vehicle Act is under the direction of the Hon. J. E. Brownlee, Provincial Secretary of the Province of Alberta. The registration fees are as follows:

### FEE FOR REGISTRATION

\$5.00 in the case of a Motor Cycle, and for any other motor vehicle according to the length of the wheel-base in inches as follows:

### LENGTH OF WHEEL-BASE IN INCHES

For motor vehicles not exceeding 100 inches.....	\$15.00
Exceeding 100 ins. but not exceeding 105 ins.....	\$17.50
Exceeding 105 ins. but not exceeding 110 ins.....	\$20.00
Exceeding 110 ins. but not exceeding 115 ins.....	\$22.50
Exceeding 115 ins. but not exceeding 120 ins.....	\$25.00
Exceeding 120 ins. but not exceeding 125 ins.....	\$27.50
Exceeding 125 ins. but not exceeding 130 ins.....	\$30.00
Exceeding 130 ins. but not exceeding 135 ins.....	\$32.50
For every motor vehicle exceeding 135 inches.....	\$35.00

(The above fees include cost of one set of number plates)

**NOTE:** By wheel-base is meant the length in inches from centre to centre of front and rear hubs.

In addition to obtaining license plates at headquarters, Edmonton, they may also be obtained from the Departmental offices at Calgary and Lethbridge, and from the Clerk of the Supreme Court at Medicine Hat.

**J. E. BROWNLEE,**

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

**E. TROWBRIDGE,**

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL SECRETARY



## Farmer Should Not Carry the Burden of the Cities

Correspondent States Reckless Extravagance Cause of Present Financial Condition of Cities

Editor, "The U. F. A.":

The most momentous question facing the West is based on the demand of the cities for Provincial aid in paying their financial obligations which they themselves are unable to pay.

Reckless extravagance and waste brought about this condition of the cities. Little or no attempt to economize is apparent. The cities appear to rely on their ability to induce the Provincial Government, that is, the farmers, to pay the city mortgages and finance the cities in the future.

City people in the past controlled the Government here in Alberta, and the same absence of sane methods in Provincial affairs as in city affairs, has resulted in heavy obligations on the Province. The farmers, who have to meet these obligations, are struggling desperately and in many cases vainly to pay their taxes. The Provincial deficit nevertheless approaches \$2,000,000 a year.

If the Provincial Government refuses to finance the cities, the cities will be forced to meet their mortgages. In that case the Province may survive, but only by employing strict economy. If the Provincial Government undertakes to finance the cities, then both cities and Province will be forced down and out. City people knowing that the farmers are willing to pay the city bills will launch out into a vastly intensified squandering of money.

The farmer cannot carry the Provincial load as it is and with the city load added the case becomes utterly hopeless.

If the farmer could sell at reasonable prices and buy at reasonable prices, the case would be different. The Provincial load could then be carried, possibly. As it is the farmer pays the outrageous prices to the city people who are legally organized in almost every line for the express purpose of plundering everyone in sight. When he sells he meets organized bands on every hand whose business consists in plundering the farmer beyond the limits of endurance. When a class happens to be outdone in legalized plundering the Government takes a hand direct in the plundering business and sets a minimum wage, and so on.

The Government should pause and reckon up the consequences of complying with city demands. The consequences would be unavoidably disastrous.

C. C. GRANT, M.D.

Sylvan Lake, Alta.

[We do not believe that the small minimum wage for women engaged in industry which is provided for by legislation, has any bearing whatever on the present indebtedness of the cities, or the condition of the Province. The trouble arises mainly from the wild speculative period of some years ago, when certain business men who were in charge of our municipalities undertook to carry out very extravagant programs of construction, largely for the purpose of "boosting" real estate. They were supported at that time by the majority of the public. It was not by the power of Labor organizations, as some people ap-

pear to believe, that the heavy indebtedness of the cities was built up. Labor in the cities has only begun to come to political consciousness during the last few years, and the period of extravagance preceded this. The cutting of the Provincial deficit to less than half a million in 1923 has been announced since the above letter was written.—Editor.]

### WILL ADDRESS MEETINGS

John Glambeck, director of district No. 6 of the Bow River Constituency, will address meetings as follows:

Acnada, March 17, 2 p.m.; Midway, March 17, 8 p.m.; Badger Lake, March 18, 2 p.m.; Travers, March 8, 8 p.m.; Sundial, March 19, 2 p.m.; Enchant, March 19, 8 p.m.; Rolling Green, March 20, 2 p.m.; Retlaw, March 20, 8 p.m.; Lomond, March 21, 8 p.m.

### TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Members of Mooswa Local, in discussing the membership of their branch of the organization, which had decreased considerably in the last two years, felt that the trouble was local and not concerned with the organization as a whole. It was thought that the first need was to develop a real community spirit, and at the opening of the newly built hall an effort was made in this direction. Large numbers attended this get-together meeting, when it was explained that it was the hope of the Local that the hall would be used for a community centre. Social membership in the Local at a nominal fee was offered, and many of those present accepted the offer. It is

believed that closer acquaintance and a better knowledge of the organization will result in most of these "social members" becoming full fledged U. F. A. members.

### CONTROL OF LIQUOR ADVERTISING MAY BE PROVIDED FOR IN ACT

(Continued from page 9).

to liquor advertising, contending that it would inevitably tend to promote drinking, and thereby prove detrimental to the well-being of the people.

W. M. Davidson thought that to attempt to make people good by act of parliament was more objectionable than liquor advertising could be, while Mrs. McClung strongly differed from this view, holding that education and the control of moving pictures were examples of a contrary sort. She believed that in the absence of the censorship the "movies" would be as serious a source of evil as any in the country. J. C. Bowen of Edmonton, also thought advertising of liquor should be restricted.

In the course of the discussion on liquor profits, J. W. Heffernan of Edmonton, asked whether there had not been an agreement between the Government and the municipalities in regard to this matter. The Premier replied that there was no written agreement, but added, "My word has passed to the municipalities, and I will always endeavor to keep that word."

Any person found with a bottle of liquor in any automobile, if the seal of the liquor has been broken, will be guilty of an offense under the new act, and liable to a penalty of \$20.

## Dairy Pool Organized at Rousing Meeting of U.F.A. Locals and Others at Alix

Cream Will Be Pooled on Binding Contract Basis—Drive for Signers at Same Time as Wheat Pool Drive

Editor, "The U. F. A.":

A rousing meeting was held in the U. F. A. Hall at Alix last Thursday, February 28th, to complete the organization of a Dairy Producers' Pool which was commenced earlier in the month.

### Fifteen Locals Represented

Representatives from fifteen U. F. A. Locals, from shipping points, where there are no Locals, members of the Legislature, proprietors and agents from creameries and townspeople, all were there, and from the time Chairman Fred MacDonald called the assembly to order until the close of the evening session, which was after midnight, keen interest and enthusiasm seasoned with goodwill and toleration, prevailed, indicative of the fact that our people have determined to take up the task of combating conditions and methods (not corporations and men), clearly defining their position and asking no favors.

During the afternoon session a forceful and instructive address was received from Nelson Smith, M.L.A. for Olds, which conveyed the fact clearly that centralization of effort with consequent volume of output should be the objective of the producers of dairy products if we hoped to achieve permanent success.

A draft contract and constitution were amended and ratified by unanimous vote of the meeting.

The cream will be pooled on a binding contract basis and after the drive for signers, which will take place about the same time as the drive for more Wheat Pool signers, March 17th to 31st, arrangements will be completed for the manufacture of the cream into marketable commodities.

### Pave Way for Others

We have hopes that this comparatively local Pool with others will pave the way to speedy and definite steps towards a Provincial-wide co-operative marketing association which will function in handling the products of the Pool creameries, thus substituting a sane, intelligent and true co-operative manufacturing and marketing system for a persistent branch creamery system, extravagant and exhaustive in overhead expense, destructive in its competitive policy and which cannot ever hope to return to the producer the full value of his toil.

This accomplishment in itself may seem small, but the people did it themselves, and are prepared to assume full responsibility for their action, and any community of Locals or shipping points not too restrictive in area can achieve the same degree of success if they will but "Will to do so."

The following were elected a provincial board: President, A. C. Johnstone, Clive; vice-president, A. E. Scott,



Gadsby; directors, B. C. Learned, Sylvan Lake; L. R. Forcht, Clive; John Wiggins, Mirror; Edwin Allison, Ardley; Mr. Wilson, Federal.

The above officers will be responsible for the drive in their respective districts.

A. C. JOHNSTONE.

Clive, Alta.

#### U. G. G. AND CATTLE POOL

The following resolution was passed by the Bridstow Local, near Kitscoty, recently:

Whereas, at the Annual Convention of the U. F. A. arrangements were made to organize a Cattle Pool, and,

Whereas, it was suggested that the U. G. G. be the medium of handling the same;

Therefore be it resolved, that we, the Bridstow Local, U. F. A., go on record as being strongly opposed to the proposed Pool being tied in any way to the U. G. G., and further, that we advocate that the Pool use any of the present channels of trade as are most convenient until such time as they can organize their own machinery for handling cattle as direct to the ultimate consumer as possible.

#### NEW LOCAL

John H. Wingfield, who presided over the organization meeting of Ferrybank Local, was elected its first secretary, and Marcus Crandall is the president. This Local is in the Ponoka district.

#### THINK EXPENSES HIGH

A meeting of Douglas Local decided to ask the Provincial Constituency Association to give at least one month's notice of conventions, in order to provide ample time for the Locals to elect delegates. A resolution passed at this meeting expressed the opinion that the expenses of Central Office were too high, and should be reduced.

#### OLD WHEAT FOR SEED PLANTING

"A germination test made during August often shows that old wheat will give a higher percentage of germination than the crop just harvested," says E. G. Schafer, head of the farm crops department of the State College of Washington.

"The seed of the new crop seems to be somewhat dormant, particularly at the higher temperatures that prevailed at that time. The germination of new seed, when it is slow, improves rapidly with a few weeks ageing and lower temperatures that occur as the season advances."

Speaking recently to a large audience in London, Ont., Peter M. McArthur, well-known author-farmer, declared that the present system of banking in Canada increases the cost of living for the average citizen, and "turns the thrift of the people against themselves." The more money they save and place on deposit in the branch banks, he said, the more money went to the head offices in Montreal and Toronto "to promote and finance industrial combinations."

Mr. McArthur's point is a strong one. When financial power is centralized in a few hands, it may readily become an anti-social force. Though the bulk of the funds which are controlled by the great centralized financial institutions is the money of the public, the public has no effective control over it, and it may be used, and is used in very many cases, against their essential interests. As H. C. McLeod, general manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia for twelve years, declared less than a year ago, present banking practices must lead to a virtual monopoly of the savings of the people of Canada.

# SERVICE

## Alberta Pacific Grain Company Limited

HEAD OFFICE : CALGARY

Branch Offices : WINNIPEG, MAN., VANCOUVER, B.C.

JOHN McFARLAND,  
President and Managing Director.

C. M. HALL,  
Assistant Manager.

# FARM HELP SUPPLIED

FREE SERVICE NOW OFFERED

— BY —

## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS COLONIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The work of this department is being rapidly extended throughout Western Canada to be of the best possible service to the public, and through its special representatives in the East, in Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and other European countries, it will be able to bring to Canada large numbers of immigrants, male and female, who in a short time should become permanent and desirable settlers. The great obstacle in the past has been the uncertainty of immediate employment for the new arrival and farmers can assist colonization work by employing their help through this channel, and if possible BY THE YEAR. The work is done without charge and no advances are required for transportation or for any similar purpose. All information given is used for the purpose of informing the settler requiring work only.

*Every New Settler Helps You Prosper*

ALL C.N.R. STATION AGENTS HAVE NECESSARY FORMS  
— AND WILL TAKE YOUR APPLICATION, OR WRITE —

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General Agricultural Agent  
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COLONIZATION and DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

# CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

**POULTRY**

**POULTRY  
WANTED**

**POULTRY**

2,000 Head Heavy Fowl by April 10th, 1924.

WHAT HAVE YOU TO OFFER?

SAM SHEININ (Licensed and Bonded) PUBLIC MARKET, CALGARY



# Alberta Butter!

The butter output of the 75 creameries operating in Alberta is manufactured with the object of meeting the requirements of the discriminating consumer, who knows what he wants.

OUR DAIRY INTERESTS REALIZE THAT

## A Growing Concern.

In addition to producing sufficient dairy products to meet the needs of the consumers of the province, Alberta's dairy industry is producing an increasing surplus of creamery butter for the export market.

In the adjacent column is shown the closely-knit organization which operates to produce this surplus of butter for export, on a quality basis.

In the chart below is shown the immense strides the industry has made in the past ten years in Alberta.

### CREAMERY BUTTER

1913—4,115,587 lbs.

1918—9,053,237 lbs.

1923—17,750,000 lbs.

### FACTORY CHEESE

1914—70,580 lbs.

1919—520,530 lbs.

1923—1,850,000 lbs.

## Blazing the Trail.

With the production of butter on a quality basis, made possible by the operation of the "Economic Chain," Alberta butter has been able to take its place on the world markets. During 1923, it is reported that 20,000 boxes of Alberta creamery butter were shipped direct to the British market. Two Alberta concerns, the E.C.D. of Edmonton, and the Central Creameries of Calgary, shipped 4,000 boxes direct to the old country via the Panama canal, this being the first shipment of Canadian export butter by this route.

The reports on this butter from England have been most satisfactory. The official Canadian representative on the British market, said in a recent letter to one of these Alberta firms:

"This butter will make a good name on the British market, which will not only be beneficial to you but will help to improve Canada's reputation. I have seen quite a lot of very fine stuff from Western Canada this year."

## The Customer is Always Right.

Through a logically developed plan of vertical co-operation, the preference of the discriminating consumer is being passed back in a direct line and in terms of dollars and cents to the initial producer, the dairyman on the farm.

This is the plan—the Economic Chain—in which there is no conflict of interests.

## Five Links in the Chain.

Link 1. The Consumer, in making his purchases, has well defined preferences in the matter of quality and price. These govern the market.

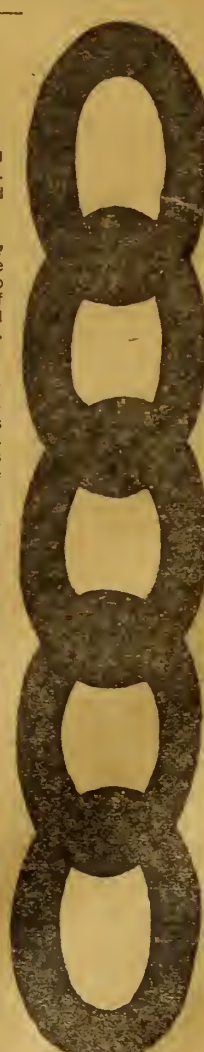
Link 2. The Produce Merchant, wholesale and retail, caters to these preferences and does not hesitate to cross national boundaries and tariff walls, when necessary, in order to find the products that will satisfy them. That is the function of "the trade."

Link 3. The Government, in interpreting these preferences, has established well defined Grade Standards for creamery butter and for cream. These Standards form a quality basis for trading as between the produce buyer and the creamery operator on the one hand and the creamery operator and the cream producer, on the other. Official butter grading stations are operated by the Government at the cities of Calgary and Edmonton.

Link 4. The Creamery Operator endeavors to manufacture a quality of butter that will be in ready demand in the best available markets. He purchases his cream supply from the producer upon a quality basis, thereby encouraging him to produce and furnish high grade cream. The cream is graded by provincial cream graders, under the direction of the Department of Agriculture.

Link 5. The Initial Producer, the dairyman on the farm, located within reach of well conducted creameries, is given his choice of four different markets as represented by the relative prices paid for the four standard grades of cream and butter, viz.: Special, First, Second and "Off" grade, and it is his privilege to direct his product into the channels that will lead to the most remunerative markets. He is concerned not only in the preservation but also in the extension of quality markets for his product.

During 1923, in twelve exhibitions in Canada, extending from Ottawa to Victoria, B.C., Alberta butter exhibits won 62.8 per cent. of all first prizes, and 50.2 per cent. of total prizes offered.



ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
EDMONTON - ALBERTA

HON. GEO. HOADLEY, Minister of Agriculture.

C. MARKER, Dairy Commissioner.

